

October 1, 2002

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Our Reference: 4320-241

Applicant : HENSHAW et al.
Appl. No. : 09/621,234
Filed : July 20, 2000
Grp./A.U. : 1723
Examiner : Ana Fortuna

Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C.
U.S.A 20231

Dear Sir:

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TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

RESPONSE

This is in response to the final Office Action mailed April 16, 2002. This Response, and the Information Disclosure Statement and Consent of the Assignee filed with it, are the Applicants' submission in support of a Request for Continued Examination filed concurrently with this Response.

REMARKS

As a preliminary matter, the Office Action Summary states that claims 15-18 are pending in the application. However, all of claims 1-18 are currently pending in the application, claims 1-14 having been allowed in the Office Action mailed 10/02/01.

The Office Action maintains the rejection discussed in paper No. 10, mailed on October 2, 2001. The Office Action alleges that claims 15-18 recapture subject matter that the applicant previously surrendered during the prosecution of the application. The Applicants respectfully traverse this objection.

Regarding the recapture objection, the applicants submit that the Office Action errs in comparing claims 15-18 of the present application with issued claims 1 and 9 of U.S. Patent No. 5,783,083 and equating those claims with surrendered subject matter. If any subject matter was surrendered, and the applicants deny that any subject matter was

please send your reply to

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